

Inventor: John C. Reed
Serial No.: 09/388,221
Filed: September 1, 1999
Page 2

A¹
CONT.

(a) DNA encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS:2, 4 or 6, or
(b) DNA that hybridizes to the DNA of (a) under **[moderately stringent]** high stringency conditions, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active NAC, or
(c) DNA degenerate with respect to either (a) or (b) above, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active NAC.

2. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is no more than 1035 nucleotides and hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the NAC coding portion of any of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3 and 5.

A²

8. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising at least 15 nucleotides up to 1035 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with a the nucleotide sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3 and 5.

A³
Sub E5)

38. (Amended) A method of modulating the level of apoptosis in a cell, comprising the steps of:
a) introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a NAC according to claim 1 into the cell; and
b) expressing said NAC in said cell, wherein the expression of said NAC modulates apoptosis in said cell.

A⁴ Sub B5

Please add new claim 66 as follows:

66. (New) A functional fragment of the nucleic acid aid according to claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises